

Maude Adams has a new play upon which the New York dramatic critics are unable to agree. She is a fortunate woman.

The reason for the advance in prices is by no means complicated. The Chicago packers simply feel that they need the money.

After being out 102 hours and failing to reach a decision a jury in Scranton, Pa., was discharged. Later empty whisky bottles were discovered in the jury room.

Absolute amnesty has been granted by the Peruvian legislature to all persons who may have been concerned in any political transgression or offenses, with the right to fill public offices. All political prisoners confined at Lima have been set at liberty.

When a new postoffice is to be named the people of the neighborhood have the right to choose its name. There are Schleys, Roosevelts and Fostons all over the country. Now some Virginians have named their postoffice Tuan, in honor of the anti-foreign Chinese prince, and the name has to stand.

Clark of Montana is going to make another effort to obtain a seat in the United States senate. As far as the legislature of Montana is concerned, Clark's case is already won. A majority of the members of that body are of Clark's choosing, and they will undoubtedly give him a set of credentials to carry to Washington.

There is one comfort in the coming on of cold weather. Statistics indicate that outbreaks of insanity are most frequent in the hot season, and that suicides in the summer months are as three to two. Whence it would appear that even our reason and our love of life are kept on ice.

Christmas trees are already being cut down in Washington county, Me., and the season's output from that section will amount to 400 car loads, with 360 bunches to a car. Each bunch consists of from two to six trees. The trees are sent to New York and Boston, where they will retail for about ten times as much as they are worth on board the cars in Maine.

A street in Chicago, not far from the "Archer road," immortalized by Dooley, has been known for twenty years as "Fake" street, in honor of a certain business man bearing that name. The word has come to have so injurious a significance of late years that the residents and property owners in that neighborhood have prayed the city authorities to give the street a new name.

Twenty-one persons died in Massachusetts last year aged 100 years or more. Sixteen of the twenty-one were women—three of the sixteen never having been married. Eight of the twenty-one were born in Ireland, three in Canada and three in other foreign countries—leaving seven native-born, six of whom were of Massachusetts nativity. The oldest was two months over 106 years.

The perfunctory manner in which witnesses are sworn in English courts was illustrated recently in a London court after some twenty witnesses had given their evidence. It was then discovered that all had solemnly sworn on and had kissed a guide to the law of landlord and tenant. The mistake came to light only when a court official saw that the supposed Bible was much more clean than usual, and, as a consequence, looked closely at the book.

Miss Alice Sinclair of Cincinnati, O., who acted as bridesmaid at the wedding of a friend, found a thimble in the piece of bride's cake which she ate. This was regarded as proof that she would be an old maid. To prove that the sign was false she agreed to marry William Keeler, to whom she was engaged, at once, and invited all the wedding guests to be present at her marriage. A minister was found within three hours of the time when she was acting as bridesmaid.

The falling of the elevators is perhaps not the only danger associated with life in the modern sky-scraper. Some physicians, in making physical examinations for life insurance companies, think they have discovered that elevator boys and others who make many trips a day are peculiarly liable to heart-disease and premature degeneration of the arteries. They do not know whether this is due to change in atmospheric pressure in passing from basement to roof and down again, to the disturbances caused by the sudden starts and stops and the rapid descent, or to some as yet unsuspected cause.

Telephones are being fitted on the electric cars of one of the suburban lines in St. Louis. The instrument is placed in the rear of each car, the negative connection being through the wheels to the rail, and the positive connection being secured through a simple device, like a jointed fishpole, and an overhead wire, paralleling the trolley. Thus the motorist is able at all times to communicate with the office, the engine and the wrecking crew. Later it is intended to connect this line with the public service and to permit its use by passengers.



Science and Flowers.
Can people dip at all deeply into the real science of botany, and yet enjoy flowers because of their beauty, because of the delight of finding them in lovely spots on lovely summer days, and because of their dear associations? Must the scientific sense blunt the aesthetic one? Often without doubt, and even though the botanists may themselves demur, this will be the case. Platylis and stamens, nectaries and receptacles—these things will not always go well with artless talk about sweet blooms and bright berries, or even with the simple, very English names given by the unlearned to flowers.

But on the other hand, there are many lovers of nature and field naturalists whose affection for the flowers and plants is so great and fixed that from time to time they may safely visit this new wondrous world, to presently emerge from it as much in love as ever with the old; they will still care for the flower because of its beauty, because it grows in the best places at the best time of year, because it vividly recalls to them the glad, sorrowful days of childhood or the tender passage of true love.

Flowers indeed, apart altogether from the science of botany, are inextricably woven about human life. When will the artist be tired of painting the children in the meadows with their laps full of cowslip or celandine?

Let the botanist classify and name for his own purposes in his own way, but let him be careful not to do anything to bring into contempt the love of flowers apart altogether from science, lest we rightly call him dry-as-dust and blind to beauty. Finally let him help to keep up the old names as well as the new. We must have our sweet william, kingcup, sweet cicely, loosestrife, heartsease, codlins and cream, and feverfew, names with stories and meanings whose loss would be a loss to the language; their very mention turns our thoughts to the garden and the pasture lands of summer gone but coming again.—London Saturday Review.

SKATES DETACHED BY THE TOE.
A genius of Red Bank, N. J., has patented a very handy and simple arrangement for adjusting the skates on the feet and removing them automatically. As will be seen by a glance at the accompanying picture, the foot-plate is pivoted to the toe of the skate, with a locking spring catch at the heel. The skate is also provided with the usual clamps, which are in this case operated by the movement of the runner, the operating lever being attached to the runner in proximity to the pivot pin of the foot plate. In order that the action of tilting the plate in either direction will open or close the clamps. To place the skates on the feet when the clamps are once properly adjusted the foot plate is fitted to the shoe and the skater then rests his weight on the runner, which causes the spring catch to engage the plate and lock it securely. To detach the skate the toe of the shoe is



AUTOMATIC DETACHING DEVICE.
pressed against the catch and the foot is lifted, which tilts the foot plate and loosens the clamps.

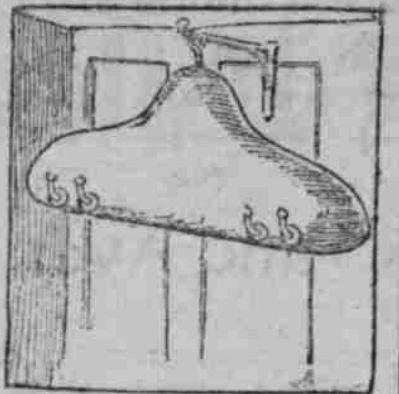
The Tennessee River's Great Change.
Several years ago, members of the Geological survey suggested that in former times the Tennessee river, instead of joining the Ohio, as at present, flowed into the Gulf of Mexico through the channels of the Coosa and Alabama rivers. This conclusion has recently been corroborated in a singular manner by Mr. Charles T. Simpson of the Smithsonian Institute. The original suggestion was based on the appearance of the land, but Mr. Simpson's confirmation depends upon the distribution of a particular form of fresh-water mussel which, although it is peculiar to the Tennessee river, is also found in the Coosa and the Alabama. As these creatures cannot traverse the land, the inference is that formerly the waters of the Tennessee flowed southward into the streams above named.

The Flight of a Great Nebula.
One of the most striking spectacles revealed by telescopes is that of the Great Nebula in Orion. In the complexity of its glowing streams, spirals and strangely shaped masses, intercepted by yawning black gaps and sprinkled over with stars arranged in suggestive groups and lines, it has few rivals in the heavens. The impression of astonishment made by the sight of this nebula is heightened by knowledge of its enormous size. The entire solar system would appear as a tiny speck beside it. Yet this tre-

mendous aggregation of nebulous clouds and starry swarms has been proved by the researches of the late Professor Keeler of the Lick observatory to be flying away from the earth and the sun at the rate of 11 miles in every second! But so vast is its distance that 100 years reveal no visual effects of the great nebula's swift retreat. If it were near by it would seem to become rapidly smaller.

Registering Millions of a Second.
In a recent lecture at the Royal Institute, London, Sir Andrew Noble mentioned that in experiments with high power explosives used in guns a chronoscope had been employed which registered the velocity of the projectile at 15 successive points before it left the bore. It was possible with this apparatus to register time to the millionth of a second. In the older experiments, where the velocity did not exceed 1,500 or 1,000 feet per second, the projectile recorded its time by knocking down a series of steel triggers projecting into the bore. But with velocities of 2,500 feet and more per second, the trigger, instead of dropping, frequently plowed a groove in the projectile, and another device was necessary.

IMPROVED COAT HANGER.
The numerous coat-hangers already on the market would lead one to think that no room for improvement was left, but the contrary is true, as we show in our illustration. The great majority of hangers are made of wire forms, which fit the garments only in outline, tending to stretch the coat and crease it along the line of the wire. This fault is remedied in the hanger here shown, which has recently been patented. It is formed of metallic sheets, preferably of aluminum, although any light sheet metal will answer the purpose. It is intended to manufacture the hangers in a sufficient



SHAPED HANGER FOR CLOTHING.
number of sizes and shapes to conform to nearly every pair of shoulders. When the coat is placed on the hanger it will fit snugly, from the neck to the bottom of the shoulders, which generally show a need of pressing to remove the traces of the old-style hanger. In addition to supporting the coat and vest, hooks are provided by which the trousers may be attached.

New Form of Phonograph.
Among the exhibits at the Paris exposition was a phonograph, invented by Valdemar Poulsen, a Danish engineer, which uses a wire-wound instead of a wax-covered cylinder. The wire is of steel and over it, in place of the usual stylus, passes a small electromagnet connected with a telephone transmitter and battery. The sound-waves cause a variation in the intensity of the electromagnet, and the magnet, acting upon the wire passing beneath it, leaves a permanent impression upon the latter. Upon reversing the action, the wire reacts on the magnet and corresponding sounds are transmitted by the telephone. In order to obliterate the magnetic trace on the cylinder, it is only necessary to revolve it under the magnet while this is subjected to a continuous current.

Antiquity of Anatomical Study.
Sir Norman Lockyer points out that the statues and plaques carved in stone and wood to be seen in the Gizeh museum prove that the priest-mummifiers of Memphis, 6,000 years ago, had a profound knowledge of anatomy. Science, he therefore thinks, is as old as art, and they have advanced together. Another remarkable fact is that the excavations in Italy have brought to light scores of finely finished surgical instruments for certain operations, which are, in almost every particular of form, precisely like those reinvented in modern times and used by the most advanced surgeons of today.

Mastodons in Death Valley.
The bones of three mastodons have been discovered in Death Valley, California, and their discoverer, a miner, has taken out a claim for the purpose of excavating them. Another indication of the popular appreciation of the money value of the remains of prehistoric animals is the fact that a mining claim has been filed in Southern California to cover the excavation of a fossil whale of the Pliocene epoch.

Why He Follows.
"If Todd whistles any dog will follow him."
"And if Walter sings any dog will follow him."
"How far?"
"Oh, until it gets a good grip on him."—Philadelphia Record.

CHINA'S QUEER BOOKS

LANGUAGE WITHOUT ALPHABET IS CURIOUS.

The Written Language Cannot Be Read Aboard So That a Listener May Comprehend It—Eight "Tones" of a Chinese Noun.

A language without an alphabet sounds sufficiently curious, especially when it is added that it is a written language and the medium of communication throughout that enormous expanse of territory, the Chinese Empire. Not only has the Chinese language no alphabet, but it is actually true that in its purest form, though it could, literally speaking, be read aloud, the sounds would have absolutely no significance whatever to a listener. To the reader, of course, the written or printed page would convey all that the author wished it to. But in order to convey its meaning, say, to a blind person, the reader would be compelled to find his own words, chosen from the spoken Chinese language. And his "translation" would be much more roundabout than the written version. Some idea of this singular fact may be gathered from the estimate that the fable of "The Fox and the Grapes," which can be told in 120 English words, could be narrated in eighty-five Chinese written characters. To tell the story in spoken Chinese would require 153 words. Written Chinese is practically uniform throughout the Empire, and has hardly altered during the entire course of Chinese history. The spoken language, on the other hand, is constantly changing, and prevails in several dialects, some of which are quite unintelligible to Chinese from the different provinces. But even the purest form of spoken Chinese is almost incomprehensible to a foreigner, except by the most arduous study, and after years of application the European continues to make the most ludicrous blunders. The reason for this is that the Chinese tongue has but 500 to 1,000 elementary words, which form the base of their language—as the alphabet does of ours. In order to spin

these out to their needs they pronounce them in different "tones," each "tone" giving an entirely altered meaning. In some parts of the Empire as many as eight "tones" are in use, giving eight significations to words whose actual pronunciation is otherwise the same. No wonder the European ear jibs at the task—the ninth meaning of a Greek particle is nothing to the eighth "tone" of a Chinese noun. Chinese has no grammar, as we know grammar. According to its position in a sentence a word is either a noun, adjective, verb, or adverb—the word itself remains the same. In this respect Chinese is a "baby" among languages. But, like so many other things that the Celestial has invented and left as he invented, the Chinese tongue has never grown up. And yet, with all its drawbacks, the literary men of the Flowery Land have contrived to make it serve their purpose. But almost all the classical philosophical, and historical works of the Chinese are written in the queer characters that only mean something to the eye, and cannot be made to mean anything to the ear. Where the Chinese language—written or spoken—came from nobody knows, any more than they know where the original Chinese themselves came from. But it is probable that the primary Chinese characters existed 5,000 years ago pretty much as they do today. They are written in vertical columns, which begin on the right of the paper. The instrument is a brush and a thick solution of Indian ink is the medium—the paper the familiar flimsy material made from rice straw. Oddly enough, though the Manchus—who are the ruling race in China—as well as their Tartar relatives, the Mongols, speak a language related to the Chinese, they have a proper alphabet, derived indirectly from the West. It has borrowed from the Syriac, which came from the Phoenician alphabet. And the Roman letters of today owe more than a little to the Phoenician. So the Tartar writing is at one end of the chain that which was derived from the Aramaic, stretches to our own A B C. The Tartars owe their alphabet to the Christian missionaries known as the Nestorians. But that is another story.—London Express.

Babies Convicted of Sedition.

In Austria they arrest babes for high crimes and misdemeanors. The court in Parenzo, a town in Austria's Italian province of Istria, recently afforded the spectacle of two baby brothers, three and five years old, Pao and Leo Franco, being charged with sedition, in that they did cry "Viva Istria, Italiana." A day or two be-

fore, a festival was celebrated, in the course of which this cry was raised. The two infants heard it, and the next day, while playing near the police barracks, they babbled the cry. Thereupon they were arrested, imprisoned, tried formally, adjudged guilty, and sentenced to be severely reprimanded. And so the high crime and misdemeanor was dealt with properly.

HALF CENTS WANTED.

Demand Is Springing Up for Smaller Denominations.
In the early history of the country this coin did not seem to be needed. Business had not reached the degree of division and specialization that rendered it useful. In all new countries, where resources have to be developed, there is a disregard for detail and of small things. As civilization progresses and population increases the trading and every day business is done on finer lines. Convenient small coins for use in small transactions conduce to economy and saving. In California of the pioneer days there were no coins less than a dime. All transactions in which change could not exactly be made, less than a dime caused a loss to one side and a gain to the other. For a long time California affected to despise nickels, but the advantage of making closer and juster change gradually recommended itself and now even the coppercent is gaining

ground in that state of great resources and large ideas. The demand for the half cent comes from those sections where the loss of even half a cent in making change to be a serious matter. There are many things sold for a cent which would be sold for a half cent if such a coin existed. The dollars would probably take care of themselves better if the half cent were in existence to be taken care of than they are now, when the cent is the least coin that can be looked after. To add the half cent to our coins would increase the profits of small dealers and the possible economies to that class of people who are obliged to make small purchases. As it is now, either the seller or purchaser in these small dealings, which by their number are of great importance, loses or gains. To save a cent each day amounts to \$3.65 a year, and to save a half cent each day effects a saving of one-half of the same. The country should have the half cent.—Bakers' Magazine.

A WOMAN'S TORTURING BICYCLE RIDE...

The most remarkable ride ever undertaken by a woman on a wheel was finished by Miss Marguerite Gast Monday evening when she completed a 2,000-mile journey in the record time of 222 hours 54 minutes. Miss Gast's ride was over a course in Long Island and no man or woman ever equalled

the feat, but it was at an awful cost to the rider herself. She went through a series of hardships that would have caused the collapse of many a hardened athlete. When she finished she was a mere wreck of her former self. The glory of the ride was offset by the terrible physical suffering she underwent.

IN MAURITIUS.

English Possession Whose Inhabitants Are Anti-British.

The British possession of Mauritius is at present the ground of a campaign against everything British. The French child's copybook which gives a picture of the alleged British atrocities at Ladyemith is being widely used, and this is not the only monstrous publication that is being issued with the view of fostering hatred of things British. The newspapers, of which there are nine or ten published here, are with two exceptions violently anti-British, says the London Mail. They constantly speak of the "undying hatred" of the natives for the English, and stigmatize the British residents as pigs, thieves, drunkards, and almost every other objectionable thing they can imagine. Although Mauritius has been a British possession since 1810, it is as anti-British as ever. Out of a population of 370,000, 270,000 are Indian natives engaged in the sugar industry. About

90,000 of the rest are white and colored creoles. Not only the creoles, but an enormous number of the Indians, as well as the Chinese shopkeepers, use the French language, and all the newspapers, except one, are published in French. In all law cases in which an Englishman is involved the newspapers invariably side against him, and heap abuse on his head so long as the matter remains before the public. Sir Charles Bruce is constantly derided and ridiculed in these disgraceful journals, which, indeed, vie with the gutter press of Paris in vituperation and calumny.

Doctors Recommend Individual Beds.

Physicians declare one-half the diseases flesh is heir to are contracted by sleeping two in a bed. It is only too true. There is a poison constantly arising from each body, which the other inhales. Two single beds, placed side by side, will do away with much of the bad effect, and yet one need not feel that they are really alone.

A MYSTERY NO MORE

AND CLOUD IS LIFTED FROM INNOCENT MAN.

Taylor Barrow Who Has Been Sought Far and Near for Ten Years Lately Discovered as a Paralytic at Portland, Oregon.

Taylor Barrow has been found and the veil of mystery that enshrouded his disappearance ten years ago has been lifted. He lived south of Hamilton, and with two companions on June 13, 1890, went to the Oakley races and was never heard of again, says the Youngstown Signal.

His family and friends thought that he had met with foul play, and his body had been secretly buried to hide the crime. The mysterious disappearance filled many columns of the newspapers at the time, but without avail. He could not be found. But yesterday a telegram was received by his family from Portland, Ore., stating that under the name of Chas. Dumont Taylor Barrow was a paralyzed inmate of the City Hospital and would die. The sufferer wished his family to claim his body. When he left home he was accompanied by Harry Pitzer and Hudson Scott, two prominent citizens living near Sharonville. On the day of his disappearance it was shown that he drew \$2,500 out of the bank and this only made the suspicion of foul play stronger. His companions left him in the city and thought nothing more of him. On Tuesday, June 13, Mrs. Barrow came to Sharonville and going to the Victor Hotel, of which hotel Scott was proprietor, inquired if he had seen her husband. Scott told her that Barrow had left them at the depot and was taken by surprise when informed that he had not returned home. A search was at once instituted for Barrow and the news that he was missing spread broadcast. Days passed, the missing man was not heard from, and ugly suspicions grew apace. On July 3, 1890, a man named Boyle, a former schoolmate of Barrow's, arrived in Cincinnati and stated that he had met the latter in Chattanooga, Tenn., a few days previously, and that the missing man had assumed the name of Charles Dumont. Scott accompanied Boyle to the office of a notary and had this statement sworn to. Scott then visited Mrs. Barrow and her brother, John Williamson, at the farm, and displayed the sworn statement. Williamson stated that he believed Boyle's statement, but Mrs. Barrow acquiesced the idea, and said that Scott had paid Boyle to swear falsely. Scott then went to Chattanooga, and, although he heard of Taylor Barrow, or Charles Dumont, the latter had left that city. Scott then offered \$500 reward for the discovery of the missing man, and news came repeatedly. He was reported seen at one time at Kansas City, Mo., later at Ft. Scott, Kan., and in 1893 word came that he had been seen in Denver, Col. At the time of Barrow's disappearance he was the Butler county agent for W. H. Hill of Cincinnati. Rumor had connected Barrow's try folks would have been his explanations. Taylor Barrow had, in their opinion, been murdered. In the meantime Mrs. Barrow, the supposed widow, and her only son lived on the home farm near Sharonville, amply provided for by revenues derived from property owned by the missing husband and father. The 5-year-old son grew to a stalwart youth, but no message ever came from the missing father, and the wife and boy mourned him as dead. A brother, John Barrows, left the home some years ago to secure a position as motorman on the Vine and Clifton electric road, and at present lives at No. 2333 Falke street, Coryville. A blue-coated messenger stopped Barrow as he was leaving his front gate to go to work and handed him the dispatch above referred to. Stopping but a moment to gather the news it contained, John Barrow hurried to a telephone and hastily sent the contents of the message to his sister-in-law at Sharonville. Then, as he paused, he thought of Hud Scott. Another turn of the crank and the telephone exchange was notified to call up Mason, Ohio, where Scott now owns a hotel. A few brief words and the message was delivered to Scott, and he took the first train for Cincinnati, arriving there about noon.

Mr. Scott was seen at the Dennison House in company with Miles Osgood and Col. Jack Frey, and stated that he had been relieved of a load he had been carrying since Barrow's disappearance, and that his wife and daughters had suffered even more than he from the dreadful circumstance. He had acquainted them of the news immediately after receiving it, and he sobbed as he told of their happiness at hearing it. John Barrow was seen yesterday, and stated that he knew nothing of his brother's wanderings; nothing, in fact, more than the news that the long-missing man was dying in the far west. He had thought that the news that he had been located, even if it were on his deathbed, would be as sweet to Hudson Scott as to the bereaved wife and son, and he had wasted no time in letting him know. Mr. Barrow stated that none of the family would go to Portland, Ore., but in the event of his brother's death, which the physicians said was certain, the body would be brought to this state for burial.

Experience Regrets Wisdom.

Mrs. Enspeck—"Oh, you think you know it all, don't you?" Mr. Enspeck—"No, my dear, but I know a great deal more than I did the day I proposed to you. I'm sorry to say."